

**PRIDNESTROVIAN LABOUR MIGRATION:
STROKES TO POTENTIAL SOCIAL POLICY**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is the rationale for migration and social policies in Dnestr Moldavian Republic.

The study was performed by using several methods: analysis of data of State Statistics Service of the Ministry of Economic Development of Dnestr Moldavian Republic, Migration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Dnestr Moldavian Republic, Dnestr Moldavian Republic Bank, questionnaire migrants.

The result of research work is the effects of migration, indicating a need for migration policy, regulatory exodus to foreign labor markets. Social policy in the field of labor migration is a system of measures and activities aimed at administration problems of migrant workers and members of their families, as well as potential labor migrants.

Results of the study can be used in the development and implementation of social policy in the field of labor migration.

Main conclusions: the use of statistical data and the results of empirical research allows us to describe the unfolding situation in the sphere of Pridnestrovian labor migration, which has both positive and negative features; there has been a need to

regulate labor migration processes: on the one hand – to increase its effectiveness, on the other hand – to minimize its negative traits.

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Introduction

Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic (TMR) is an unacknowledged state between the Moldova republic and the Ukraine. In 1990 the process of its separation from Moldova republic had not only political but other basis: economic potential of two regions of MSSR (Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic) -right-hand Bessarabia and left-hand Pridnestrovie differed substantially. By the beginning of the 90-ies in Pridnestrovie there formed mulibranch economics, leading in which were: labor intensive and material saving mechanical engineering, food and light industry, building materials production, power generating industry, fining metallurgy, labor intensive highly productive agriculture (Istorija Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj Respubliki, 2001, p.299).

During the 90-ies socio economic development in Pridnestrovie was influenced by the following factors:

- uncertainty of political and legal status of Pridnestrovie, which created sufficient difficulties in implementing of external-economic activities;
- at the initial stage of Pridnestrovie formation there were no institutional organs of legal base, which were necessary to execute macroeconomic administration;
- external economic ties were destroyed and the main partners countries' economics was in crisis;
- necessity of transition from centralized economic system to a market one, absence of administration in firms and institutions in market conditions (Istorija Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj Respubliki, 2001, p. 300).

As a result of these factors different crisis phenomena developed and among them: reduction of labor market and people' income. In these conditions considerable

part of the population chose labor migration as the main mechanism of adaptation to the existing socio economic reality.

According to different assessments the number of Pridnestrovian labor migrants is from 100 to 170 thousand people (Fomenko, 2009, pp. 5, 13, 85). Total amount of population is 509.4 thousand people, 20-33% of them are involved in labor migration (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p.16). If we consider migrants in multitude of their family relationships it becomes evident that a considerable part of Pridnestrovian population is involved in labor migration problems.

So labor migration is one of the most important processes which characterize the modern Pridnestrovian society and labor migrants and their families are a social group which needs expedient social policy.

Methods

Two state structures: State Statistics Service of the Ministry of Economic Development of PMR Migration Service of the Ministry of International Affairs of PMR deal with the problems of registration of migration flows (Krivenko, p. 41-44). But they don't have an effective methodology of registration and characteristics of migration. In this article in order to analyze labor migration more precisely and fully, together with official statistical data we use the information from Pridnestrovian Republican Bank now about funds transfers to Transdnistria from abroad (Rynok denezhnyh perevodov: tendencii, potencial i vklad v jekonomicheskoe razvitie Pridnestrov'ja, 2013) and the results of empirical sociological researches (Sociologicheskoe issledovanie NIL «Sociologija» PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko «Migracionnye nastroenija studentov PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko», 2013; Sociologicheskoe issledovanie NIL «Sociologija» PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko «Vlijanie trudovoj migracii roditel'j na socializaciju podrostkov», 2014; Sociologicheskoe issledovanie NIL «Sociologija» PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko «Migranty v novom soobshhestve: adaptacija i integracija», 2014).

All three initiative empirical researches were carried out by the author with the help of questionnaire survey (Volkova, O. & Ostavnaya, A., p. 96-103). In September

of 2013 there was carried out a research «Migration state of mind among the students of PSU after T.G. Shevchenko». Sampling covered 291 students from 4 and 5 courses of different specializations of this University. In April 2014 there was a research «Influence of labor migration of parents on socialization of youngsters». Sampling covered 210 students from 10 and 11 forms whose parents were earning money abroad. Sampling covered two regions: Tiraspol city and Grigoriopol region. In April 2014 there was a research «Migrants in a new community: adaptation and integration». Sampling covered all regions of Transdnistria.

Duration of staying abroad is characterized as follows : 21.6% respondents stay abroad less than 6 months, 15.7% - from 6 months to 1 year; 24.5% - from 1 to 3 years; 16.7% - from 5 to 10 years; 2.9% - from 10 to 15 years; 2% - more than 15 years.

On average 2 of 10 migrants are abroad less than half a year, 4 of 10 - 7-9 months a year, 4 of 10 are abroad more than 10 months a year.

Russian Federation is the main vector of labor migration (according to the research 9 of 10 migrants). This fact is proved by statistics of money transfers. Finances get to the republic almost from 140 countries of the world, among others are: 85% from Russia, 1.5% - from Turkey, USA, Ukraine, Israel (Rynok denezhnyh perevodov: tendencii, potencial i vklad v jekonomicheskoe razvitie Pridnestrov'ja, 2013, p. 13).

Russia is the nucleus of cross-border migration system to which many countries of the post-Soviet space are inclined (Akmalova, 2010, p. 72-83). Choice of Russia as a migration country is based on demographic, political, economic, social, cultural factors.

Ethnic composition of population in Transdnistria consists of 3 main ethnic groups: 31.9% - Moldavians, 30.4% - Russians, 28.8% - Ukrainians. In this region there also live Buelorussians, Jews, Bulgarians, Gagausians, Germans, etc. (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p. 19). Double citizenship is widely spread in the republic. Besides the Pridnestrovian passport (which is legal only at the territory of the republic) people also have the citizenship of Moldova Republic, Russian Federation, Ukraine.

It's important to point out that citizenship of this or that country doesn't always correlate to the ethnic membership of a person. Russian passport is mostly preferred. This fact reflects general orientation of population to Russia. In 2006 during the referendum 78.55% of population came to the polls and 98.08% of them supported the course for independence of the Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic and further accession to Russian Federation. In context of migration Russian citizenship has a utilitarian function: it gives possibility to have rights and freedoms of Russian citizens including employment rights. At the Russian labor market one can find a job on specialty and get much more money than Pridnestrovians working in their own country.

Among the reasons of social character we can single out kindred and friendship relationships with Russian citizens, former experience of life in Russia (many people were born there, studied, served there in the army), low level of migrantfobia to Pridnestrovian migrants who are accepted as fellow-countrymen.

Cultural factors of migration are connected with understanding of language and culture of the country. At the territory of Transdnistria Russian educational system functions, Russian TV ad radio channels are broadcasted. Absolute majority of population is Russian speaking. About 90% of population is orthodox (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p. 19).

As whole legal status, employment assistance no need for resocialisation lesser possibility of discrimination, visa free regime preconditions migration and specific character of employment in Russian Federation.

61.4% of migrants who were questioned work legally (with work book), 38.6% - illegally (on oral agreement). Illegitimate, as 74% of respondents think, makes the position of foreign workers complicated. Among other problems of migrants status 32.4% of people named difference in wages of foreign and native workers, 16.7% - the threat of immediate discharge.

About 46.1% of migrants work for a wage constantly and 39.2% temporarily; 7.8% have their own business employing workers, 3.9% are entrepreneurs; 2.9% have casual jobs. 51% of those who were questioned are workers, 38.2% are specialists and 10.8% are office workers.

Speaking about the grounds influencing the decision about migration it should be noted that in the 90-ies departure from Transdnistria for labor purposes was mostly connected with the loss of job, delays in wages and low incomes. The migration group at this time formed those categories of population which could not adjust to the existing socio economic reality at their permanent life territory.

In the 2000-ies the migration structure has changed: there appeared specialists from various spheres, who could adapt to the local labor market but nevertheless wanted higher wages, status and life perspectives.

According to opinion polls before the departure critical financial situation «being in debts and there was money only for food» was true for 34% of families, low - «there was enough money to buy food and clothing» pointed 52.9%, medium - «could buy durable goods» - 10.8%, high «could afford everything» - 5.9% of migrants.

Financial component of labor migration today is still actual. Answering the questions about the factors for employment abroad respondents mostly name the economic reasons: 60.8% speak about hard financial situation, 52% tell about the difficulties in employment, 26.5% complain on wages delay and 21.6% speak about the reduction of wages. Among other reasons for employment outside Transdnistria 52.9% of respondents pointed out the absence of life perspectives, 18.6% - long-standing political crisis, 8.8% - apathy to everything in the country, 5.9% - reduction of social payments.

Employment abroad is appealing to 90.2% of respondents because it is connected with «good »wages which are regularly paid. Additionally for 41.2% of migrants it gives better labor conditions, for 20.6% - professional growth, for 19.6% - correspondence of education and application, for 19.6% - convenient time table, for 18.6% - career development, for 17.6% - high social status, for 6.9% - to show initiative.

Politicians and researches in Transdnistria have controversial assessments of labor migration. There are positive and negative consequences of it that can be explained by complexity of migration process which is influencing many aspects of life of individuals and society as a whole.

At the macrolevel migration engenders demographic, economic and social changes. According to statistical data population size is declining, it's age structure changes. In 1990 the population of Transnistria was 730.7 thousand people (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik PMR, 2001, p. 29), by 2013 it decreased almost to 1/3 and is 509.4 thousands. The reason for decrease is natural and migrational loss of population (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p.16).

The result of the poll shows that 25.3% of Pridnestrovian migrants plan to stay abroad for permanent residency. Almost 25.3% plan to work there for a long time (a year and more) and then return home, 27.3% want to earn money in short term (less than a year) and then return home, 22,2% plan to go abroad regularly to earn money.

In 1996 there were 130.3 thousands of pensioners (19.2% of population) (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik PMR, 2001, p. 52), by 2013 their amount grew to 139.2 thousands (27.3% correspondingly) (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p. 53).

There's a flow-out of economically active population from the country. In 1996 the number of employed people was 225.8 thousands (33.2% of total population) (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik PMR, 2001, p. 39), by 2013 this number is 140.6 thousands (27.6% correspondingly) (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p. 40).

Labor migration should be considered in the context of «brain drain» problem. According to the assessments of Pridnestrovian demographers highly-qualified specialists, scientists and graduates from the Universities, who have great intellectual potential, leave the country now. They are active in sense of migration because their level of knowledge and qualifications can guarantee them employment in other countries (Burla, 2014, p.19).

The poll among the students of universities shows that migration intentions are inherent to every other respondent. 83.7% of respondents consider labor migration as the further improvement of life quality, 73.9% as the improvement of social status. 77.1% of respondents hope to get legal employment, 60% hope to work on their

specialty (Sociologicheskoe issledovanie NIL «Sociologija» PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko «Migracionnye nastroyeniya studentov PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko», 2013).

If we speak about the positive sides of migration we should point out that flow-out of labor resources led to a considerable reduction of unemployed number. The level of officially registered unemployment (in% of economically active population) was 0.26% in 1996 (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik PMR, 2001, p. 45) and 3.4% in 2013 (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliky, 2013, p. 46). This divergent fact proves that some problems in employment sphere were solved by means of labor migration easing in such a way the consequences of unemployment.

It is also necessary to point out that in other conditions considerable amount of unemployed population at the local labor market could lead to serious social distresses, such as total criminalization of the population, social diseases, forcible power shift. But all recent political and social changes didn't go outside the bounds of legal terrain of the republic.

Trade income of the considerable part of population is a little bit higher than the established minimum wage. Nevertheless consumers market, construction, paid educational and medical services are actively developed in the republic.

Money transfers of labor migrants play considerable role in development of consumers market and support of social stability. According to information of Pridnestrovian Republican bank for the last 10 years Pridnestrovian migrants have sent home about 1230 million US dollars (Rynok denezhnyh perevodov: tendencii, potencial i vklad v jekonomicheskoe razvitie Pridnestrov'ja, 2013, p. 17). This statistics refers only to transfers made through official systems of money transfers. Unofficial channels of financial incomes when migrants themselves bring money, when they use «migrant's network» or buy expensive goods may also be about 50% of the registered volume of money. So annual volume of real money transfers may be about 300 million of US dollars.

During the last years the volume of income from foreign currency sell grew constantly in the general structure of population income approaching to the volume of income from payment of the hired workers' labor. In 1996 this income was 36804.6

billion of PMR roubles (59% of aggregate income of the population), the income from foreign currency sell was 3394.7 billion PMR roubles (5.4%) (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik PMR, 2001, p. 48), by 2013 this income increased: 4602.9 mln PMR roubles (34,8%) and 4285.9 mln PMR roubles (32.4%) correspondingly (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p.49).

Migration also exerts dual influence at the mikrolevel (at the level of an individual, family, household). Work abroad positively influences the welfare of the households. According to the polls money transfers make it possible for migrants' families:

- to improve the material wellbeing of the households: 65.7% of respondents improved their living conditions, 51% bought new furniture, consumer electronics, 32.4% bought a car, 36.3% bought new clothes,

- to secure high quality of life: 56.9% of respondents say that they use money transfers to secure family with good food, 21.6% say that they can afford rest at a resort, 10.8% pay medical services for themselves and their families,

- to improve educational level of the family: 33.3% of respondents can pay for education due to the money transfers,

- to pile up starting capital to begin their own business: 11.8% of respondents said that they use money transfers to open up their own business.

Working abroad promotes personal and professional development of migrants. As it was already pointed out earlier professional and career growth is an incentive for a part of migrants to get out of the Republic. In this context migration is a mechanism of human capital development.

But labor migration has drawbacks which negatively influence the development of families as a whole and their members. There is an unfavorable situation in the sphere of family and matrimonial relationships lately. Annually there is a lot of divorces. In 2013 for 1000 of population there was 6.8 marriages and 4.0 divorces (Statisticheskij ezhegodnik Pridnestrovskoj Moldavskoj respubliki, 2013, p.37). One of the reasons of divorces is that spouses live separately and one of them is a labor migrant. In the course of time it leads to a divorce. Because family matrimonial

relationships are not stable and because the migrants' family can't fully execute the socialization function to their children there appeared more homeless and abandoned children.

According to sociological researches 65.3% of Pridnestrovian migrants have children. During migrants stay abroad 67.9% of them leave children with a spouse, 26.4% with grandparents, 3.8% with other relatives, 1.9% with the elder children. This makes it very difficult to bring up children, which reflects on their school credits, their socialization and way of life as a whole.

There was a research carried out among the children of migrants and it shows that 9.1% of children disapprove their parents' work abroad, they are sure that parents should be together with their children. 47.5% support their parents, they understand that they do it for their sake. 7.1% of children admit that separation is painful for them, 54.5% are ready to put up with absence of parents because they understand that this is a circumstances demand. The problem now is the fact that at school there's no control over these pupils, 65.7% of children said that the teachers don't know that their parents are working abroad (Sociologicheskoe issledovanie NIL «Sociologija» PGU im. T.G. Shevchenko «Vlijanie trudovoj migracii roditelej na socializaciju podrostkov», 2014).

Another widespread migrants' problem is their health. 36.6% of respondents pointed out that their health worsened. 34.3% of migrants say that they work hard to the max, 16.7% note bad working conditions, 29.4% of respondents say about violation of working time schedule, days off and leaves. Besides 6.9% of migrants are not content with their living conditions in the country where they work, 29% say that they eat less than at home, 56.9% are not satisfied with the climate of the country.

The problem is even worse because only 28.4% of migrants have an access to a free medical care, 56,9% of them don't have such an opportunity.

Conclusion

The use of statistical data and the results of empirical sociological researches give an opportunity to determine the situation in the sphere of labor migration of population in Transdnistria. The situation has positive and negative characteristics.

Given the objective character of social and economic conditions formed there the authors of the article point out the necessity to regulate the processes connected with labor migration: to rise it's efficiency on the one hand and to minimize it's drawbacks - on the other.

Social policy in migration sphere is considered as a rule from the point of view of the welcoming side. But a specific subject of this article - migration shift of the population. In the context of this problem speaking about social policy in labor migration sphere we understand the system of measures to administer the problems of migrants and their families as well as the potential migrants. The subjects for realization of social policy in labor migration sphere can be state structures as well as social and commercial.

Unrecognized state status influences the existing system of foreign policy relationships: State structures of Transdnistria are considered to be Illegitimate by most of the countries except Russia and some other postsript states. In these conditions state structures have the priority to create and realize social policy in migration sphere, but it is also necessary to create and develop non-standard organizations which are to solve problems of migrants and their families.

On the one hand social policy in migration sphere must reflect social and economic conditions, on the other hand it must meet the needs of individuals as well as the state.

Social policy strategy in migration sphere should include the following measures :

- develop and implement an effective system of monitoring of labor migration, which should consist of a set of statistical, economic, sociological methods,
- create a legal base, reflecting the already formed relationships as well as the appearing status and roles,
- ensure control and protection for children of labor migrants, of old members of their families,
- provide migrants with informational, legal, psychological support in their labor abroad,

- support creation and functioning of intermediary organizations between the labor migrants and potential employers outside the republic.

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THE COMMUNICATIVE ASPECT OF UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT THE BORDER REGION

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In the context of wider government reform to talk about fundamental changes to the principles of the universities of the border regions and the transformation of requirements to quality of preparation of graduates. If for the traditional type of cross-border functioning of universities is characterized by the reproduction of a certain number of staff with specialist skills, innovative type focuses on the training of competitive graduates that are in demand on the labour market, and the requirements of this market need to be considered in the training curriculum for the students. However, to date, not all universities have successfully implemented this transition. Important role in the process of transition to innovative type belongs to the ability of management systems to make decisions and troubleshoot with the maximum accounting of interests of all elements of the internal and external environment of the University.

«Real and not formal implementation of planned change is possible only if the system of University management deliberately uses her own resources. Important